

Inside Scoop

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Mission status:

(As of Tuesday)

Days ahead or behind with mission capable rate

T-37	-0.28	84.5%
T-1	+0.8	80.8%
T-38	-0.074	69.3%
T-6	N/A	86.2%

Countdown to ORI:

12 days

Angel trees help less fortunate

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Conde

Staff writer

The Enlisted Spouses Club is holding an Angel Tree program through Dec. 17 for Laughlin people to donate Christmas gifts to the less-fortunate children and elderly of the community.

There are trees located in the base exchange, chapel and library, which will be decorated with angel ornaments, describing the age and gender of the individual who would not otherwise receive a gift this Christmas.

“It’s simple,” said Juanita Wright, ESC president. “Go to one or more of the trees and select an ornament. Buy a gift based on the age, gender and item requested. Return the wrapped gift [to the same tree], with the ornament attached by Dec. 17.”

The tree at the base library has ornaments requesting books for the St. Henry de Oso Family Project in Del Rio where they will be distributed to the 30 kids they service for reading and homework help. The

[See ‘Tree,’ page 4](#)



Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Juanita Wright, Enlisted Spouses Club president, hangs an angel on the angel tree located in the base chapel Tuesday. The tree is one of three located at Laughlin. There are also trees at the library and base exchange.

Wing commander sets new pass policy

By Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Editor

The 47th Flying Training Wing commander recently issued a wing policy letter outlining requirements for military members using regular or special passes.

Col. Dan Woodward signed the letter Nov. 9 to make it clear to everyone the actions they must take while traveling in the local area on a pass. Regular and special passes are defined as authorized absences from duty not chargeable as leave, such as after duty hours and weekends.

Members taking leave or going TDY will follow current procedures. Air Education and Training Command Form 29B, a predeparture safety briefing, is re-

quired for military members 26 and under.

Under the new policy, military members on regular and special passes traveling under 175 miles in the United States do not have to fill out any forms. Members traveling more than 175 miles in the U.S. are to complete a Laughlin Accountability Form regardless of age.

All members are to complete a Laughlin Accountability Form when traveling in Mexico. An exception to this rule is day-trips to Ciudad Acuna. To qualify under the exception, members must return to the U.S. before 1:30 a.m. unless they obtain prior approval from their unit commanders.

[See ‘Pass,’ page 5](#)



Commanders' Corner

Lt. Col Peter Godwin
47th Flying Training Wing inspector general

ORI: One more chance to XL

As Team XL approaches short final for the Air Education and Training Command Operational Readiness Inspection, I thought I'd share a few inspirational words taken from Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's address to the Third Army on June 5, 1944, the eve of the Allied invasion of France.

General Patton, like we here at Laughlin, had a tremendous passion for mission accomplishment and winning. After months of drilling, the general told his soldiers they were "ready for what's to come."

General Patton continued by sharing a story about one of the bravest men he ever saw. The man was sitting on top of a telegraph pole in the midst of a furious fire fight in Tunisia. The general asked the soldier what he was doing up there during a time like this.

"Fixing the wire, sir," the repairman replied.

General Patton further

asked, "Isn't that a little unhealthy right about now?"

"Yes, sir," said the repairman, "but the darn wire has to be fixed!"

Now, there was a real soldier, the general declared at that point. "A man who devoted all he had to his duty, no matter how seemingly insignificant his duty might appear at the time, no matter how great the odds.

"You should have seen those trucks on the road to Tunisia," the general said. "Those drivers were magnificent. They never stopped [or] altered their course, with shells bursting all around them all the time. We got through on old American guts. They were part of a team. Without team effort, the fight would

have been lost. All the links in the chain pulled together and the chain became unbreakable."

Just as the soldiers of the Third Army embarked on their heroic mission on D-Day, we will be "ready for what's to come," for Laughlin is made up of professionals and real heroes linked together in an unbreakable chain. We'll get through it "on old American guts!" Together we XL.

Maj. Eric Morgan and Master Sgt. John Bock, of the 47th Operations Group war room, offer these final tips on working with AETC inspectors:

Attitude

■Your attitude has a direct impact on your unit's rating. If your unit is

on the borderline between two ratings, the impression you give will be the deciding factor.

■We must show a genuine, appropriate "sense of urgency" but stay in control. Frantic,

panicky behavior is not impressive, whether in the field or in the office.

■Be helpful.

■Show interest. If you don't know the answer, tell the inspector you will find out. Use the Team XL support net provided. Backbrief your supervisor on any problems.

■Understand how you support mission accomplishment. Be prepared to answer the question, "Tell me a little about yourself and your job."

Dress and appearance

■Military and civilian: Take pride in your appearance. Ensure you're well within standards. Dress to impress.

■Uniforms must be clean, serviceable and pressed. Check for proper fit, badge placement, gig line and

shoe shine. Keep hands out of pockets.

■Ensure compliance with hair, mustaches, earrings, finger rings, eyeglasses and sunglasses.

■Wear your hat outdoors – on and off base. Remove headgear indoors, unless armed and on official business.

Courtesy

■Salute six paces from the superior you're saluting and render an appropriate greeting of the day. Ensure you salute marked, official dignitaries' vehicles.

■Stand when an inspector enters the room or approaches you.

■Say "sir" and "ma'am," when addressing inspectors and superiors.

■Remember to pay respect to the flag during reveille and retreat.

■Ensure work areas are clean, professional in appearance.

■Eliminate distractions. Keep music and conversation levels down. Minimize personal phone calls.

■Don't schedule appointments that could interfere with the interview.

■Answer all questions honestly. If you don't know the answer, don't make one up.

■Be careful when discussing issues or problems. Most inspectors are willing to share their experience with you, but usually, the inspector's first response will be, "What have you done about it?" If your answer is unsatisfactory, then you may be looking at a write-up.

■Don't argue. You may certainly explain your position. Remember, keep it positive and professional.

■Give the inspector facts, but don't criticize any base agencies. It will reflect poorly on yourself and the Laughlin team.

■When an inspector briefs you on problems found, take notes. It shows you are concerned and interested, and it will help you brief the boss. It also shows you have a good attitude.



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Commander

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Staff writer

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Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil.

Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.



Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training
Wing commander

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

*“Excellence –
not our goal, but
our standard.”*
– 47th FTW motto

SECAF, CSAF
give thanks to
the total force

By Dr. James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

By Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

Thanksgiving is a time when Americans pause to reflect on our nation's abundant blessings. Indeed, each citizen in our democracy has much to be grateful for – our way of life built on freedom and liberty.

With these numerous blessings comes an equally great responsibility; the responsibility to serve a cause greater than self – to serve as freedom's champion and to stand firm against terror and aggression.

As airmen, our efforts in support of the global war on terrorism serve as a rallying point for freedom-loving people everywhere. Whether this Thanksgiving finds you at home station or deployed to a distant corner of the world, know that your service is tremendously meaningful and appreciated.

We send our heartfelt thanks to the entire total force of active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian airmen who perform magnificently each and every day. Your commitment and dedication ensure that the United States Air Force remains the world's premier air and space force, and your contributions to our nation's joint operations provide great comfort to those who value freedom around the world.

On behalf of a very grateful nation, thank you for your service. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving: Time to remember AF family

By Maj. Gen. James Sandstrom
19th Air Force commander

Another Thanksgiving holiday is drawing near and it's a good time to reflect on what the holiday truly means and to remember the people who have sacrificed so much to ensure that we maintain the freedoms we hold dear.

As you reminisce on past times with your loved ones and friends wherever you may be spending the holidays, don't forget your 19th Air Force family - active duty, civilians, reservists, and contractors.

AETC commander
sends best wishes
this holiday season

By Gen. Don Cook
*Air Education and Training
Command commander*

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Thanksgiving is perhaps the most American of holidays after Independence Day, and very much like the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day has special meaning for Americans.

In relatively peaceful times it is an opportunity to gather with family, friends and neighbors to give thanks for and celebrate the bounty, good fortune, health and well-being this great country affords its citizens. In times of conflict, the holiday takes on added significance, bringing into sharper focus those things we hold most dear like family, friends, neighbors and the freedoms we might otherwise take for granted.

I believe our military men and women, and their families are particularly attuned to this. Each of you understands the sacrifices it takes to defend a free society, in which our fellow citizens can live, work, raise families and prosper in freedom, because you make those sacrifices every day.

This year, we are at war on terrorism and many of our family members, friends and neighbors are again engaged in a struggle to

defend the freedoms past generations of Americans have fought so hard to safeguard.

This Thanksgiving, I call upon each of you to take stock of those things you have to be most thankful for – family, friends, neighbors and the liberty our forefathers have bestowed on us. I also ask that you recommit yourself to the important role you have in continuing to protect our American way of life.

As Theodore Roosevelt so eloquently put it, “Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.”

I want to personally thank each of you for the enormous job you have done during the past year to unselfishly serve our nation. My wife, Diane, joins me in wishing each of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Our best wishes go out to everyone in AETC, but especially to our AETC colleagues who are deployed, and the families and friends who so selflessly support those who are absent from our Thanksgiving celebrations.

Remember your Air Force comrades who may not be able to make it home for the holidays as they fight the war on terrorism from deployed locations around the world, and those who perform critical missions here at home.

Let us all be thankful that we live in a wondrous nation filled with freedom, opportunity, and a military force second-to-none.

As you travel to your Thanksgiving destinations, think safety and use common sense. Jeannie and I look forward to welcoming you all back home from the holiday.

‘Tree,’ from page 1

trees at the base exchange and chapel have ornaments with gift ideas for the elderly of the Del Rio Rotary Village and the children of Salvation Education Responsibility International Ministries in Acuña.

“As a military community, we learn to appreciate the little things in life,” said Wright. “The Angel Tree program gives the base the opportunity to touch those lives we normally would not come in contact with.”

The program, which started Nov.21, already has a few gifts under the trees. Last year, the program ended with very few ornaments hanging on the trees, but this year, the members of the Enlisted Spouses Club anticipate enough donations to replace all of the angel ornaments with a gift, said Wright.

“It is a heartbreaking thought to know that some people have no gifts to open on Christmas day,” said Wright. “Even though that’s not what Christmas is all about, the gratitude that is shown from someone who receives a gift is enormous. Just the thought of that unknown person opening the gift from an unknown ‘angel’ is an answer to a prayer.”

The gifts will be distributed to the children of the Acuña ministries at the day school before Christmas, and the ESC will deliver the gifts to the Del Rio Rotary Villages during a night of Christmas caroling.

“When the children receive the gifts, they are almost speechless,” said Donna Harman, Salvation Education Responsibility International Ministries missionary. “They are very excited because they don’t receive gifts very often. We are very happy with all the help we receive.”

Please recycle this newspaper.

Annual children’s holiday party set

By Airman 1st Class
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

The 47th Flying Training Wing is holding its annual Children’s Holiday Party Dec. 5 starting at the base chapel and continuing at Club XL.

The festivities start at 5 p.m. with the holiday tree lighting outside the chapel. From there, people can follow Santa Claus, who will be riding a fire truck, to Club XL for food and fun.

A buffet, served from 5 to 8 p.m., is free to children of Laughlin military and civilian employees 12 years and younger. The cost is \$7.95 for adults.

There will be many other things going on at the party as well. Santa Claus will be on hand to have his picture taken with the children. There will be hayride caroling going from Club XL to housing and back. Two bounce castles will be set up, one for smaller children and one for the larger ones. A crafts bazaar will be set up in the main lounge and the crud room will show “A Christmas Carol” on video.

The area outside Club XL will be set aside for stroller parking for everyone’s convenience and safety.

For more information, call one of the following numbers: wing staff agency, 298-2758; operations group, 298-2762; mission support group, 298-6309; medical group, 298-6309; maintenacne, 298-5315.

ORI preparation

The *Border Eagle* offers tips to help Laughlin members prepare for the Operational Readiness Inspection, which takes place in 12 days.

Last week before inspection: Complete last-minute preparations. Dry run practice for your presentations to the inspector. Be able to answer all questions on the inspection checklist.

Self-inspection again: Review your guides and be ready to tell the inspector about the processes you are responsible for. Have you thought about what you will show the inspector to prove you have the best processes and programs?

Yard work: Clean up your living area if you live on base. This should be a continuing effort over the next week.

Final look at files: One last shuffle to polish and purge. Purge your in-basket and personal files too. Anything that you need filed should be done. Distribution containers in the orderly room should be cleaned out.

Friendship Pool

The Friendship Pool is operating under its winter hours. It is open for lap swim Tuesday through Friday from 6 to 8 a.m. It is open for recreational swimming Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The pool is closed Mondays.

Newslines

The cost is \$1 for recreational swimming, there is no cost for active-duty lap swimmers. For more information, call 298-5830.

Suicide briefing

There will be a required annual suicide prevention briefing for all military members at 8 and 9 a.m., and 2 and 3 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in Anderson Hall auditorium. Military members who have not had this briefing in the calendar year must attend one of the briefings.

Thanksgiving dinner

The Chaparral Dining Facility is holding a Thanksgiving dinner Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for subsistence-in-kind personnel and noon to 5 p.m. for all active duty, retirees and dependents with valid identification.

For more information, call 298-4928 or 298-4176.

Base firing range

The Laughlin small arms firing range is off

limits to unauthorized personnel and should be considered dangerous at all times. Trespassing in the range area is illegal.

Anyone needing access to the firing range area should call 298-5151 during duty hours and 298-5100 during non duty hours.

Lock up buildings

The 47th Security Forces Squadron reminds everyone to lock their buildings at night. Due to the ORI many people are working extended duty hours. Remember to secure the building if you are the last one out.

Access channel

The slide format for the commander’s access channel, cable television channel 34, has changed. Slides should be in power-point format and may now contain graphics, but no animation.

For details, call Deanna Norton at 298-5988.

Lost and found

The 47th Security Forces maintains a lost and found at the dispatch desk. Individuals may drop off and claim items as required there.

Items turned in, include a cellular phone, several key chains and some jewelry.

If any of these items are yours, call 298-5462.

Interested in the Air Force? Call Del Rio’s Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.

Cookie caper delivers Dec. 6

By Rose-Marie Smith
Family member

To show appreciation for the Laughlin people spending the holidays away from their families, the 47th Flying Training Wing’s cookie caper will deliver homemade cookies Dec. 6.

About 550 dozen cookies will be bagged and distributed to airmen living in the dorms; foreign students, who are far from their loved

ones; families of those deployed; and those manning 24-hour posts.

Homemade cookie donations are needed and will be accepted Monday through Dec. 5. All representatives will meet at the chapel at 9 a.m., where more cookie donations and volunteers will be accepted.

For more information, please call Rose-Marie Smith at 298-2758. Home-

made cookie donations should be placed in Ziploc bags and dropped off at one of the following locations:
■Lynette Enyeart, 8206A O’Brien
■Rose-Marie Smith, 9019 Arnold Blvd.
■Dianna Ackerley, 9021 Arnold Blvd.
■Duff Hniatuk, 9020 Arnold Blvd.
■Debbie Hardin, 9029 McConnell

Operation Jingle helps out airmen in need

By Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein
Editor

The First Sergeants Council is currently having its annual charity drive, Operation Jingle.

The drive gives money to base people who may not have enough money to purchase Christmas gifts for their families.

“It is a great cause,” said Master Sgt. John Bock, 47th Operations Group first sergeant. “Many Air Force members are eligible for assistance such as food stamps and the Women, Infants and Children Welfare Program. Some of those people are stationed at Laughlin. In addition, each year some

families suffer through prolonged illnesses, accidental injuries or deaths of loved ones – all of which take a toll on their pocket books. The money raised here can help a family have a better holiday.”

So far, the council has helped 22 families this Thanksgiving with \$50 checks and plans to spend double that for Christmas.

People will be collecting money from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every Saturday at the base exchange and commissary through Dec. 21.

If you know of a military family in need of assistance this year or if you would like to help, please contact your first sergeant.

‘Pass,’ from page 1

Unit commanders will implement sign-out procedures that list the traveler’s name, destination, anticipated duration of visit and emergency contact number until the Laughlin Accountability Form is published and distributed.

“Due to recent events it is necessary to implement

these changes,” said Colonel Woodward. “Every member of Team XL is critical to the Air Force mission, and we need to be able to account for everyone.

“I also want to remind all Laughlin members to keep using Operational Risk Management. ORM is not a program but a mindset and a lifestyle,” he said.

Postal agency sets holiday mailing dates

**By Staff Sgt.
C. Todd Lopez**
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The dates for mailing items to and from overseas locations in time for the holidays are fast approaching, and officials at the Military Postal Service Agency here have suggestions for ensuring packages and letters arrive on time.

“The first advice is to mail early,” said Ed Larson, MPSA operations chief. “Check with your local post office for the recommended mailing dates. In each country there will be slightly different dates.”

The recommended mail deadlines for sending mail from the U.S. to all overseas APO/FPO addressees for the holidays are:

- Space available mail: Today.
- Parcel Airlift Mail: Wednesday.
- First-class mail, letters and cards and priority mail: Dec. 11.

Additional mailing dates or updates are available at Laughlin Air Force Base’s post office. Those mailing packages need to be aware that customs forms are required on all international mail, Larson said.

“I would advise people to pick up customs forms prior to sealing their

packages,” Larson said. “That way you can be very specific on the form. Also, check with the local post office for a list of items that are not mailable.”

While the United States has restrictions on mailing items such as poisons and weapons, other countries have their own restrictions for what can be mailed, Larson said.

“Mail to Middle Eastern countries can’t contain anything contrary to the Islamic faith,” Larson said. “Tobacco is not mailable to certain locations and coffee is not mailable to Germany.”

Additionally, for the second year, the MPSA will not support Operation Dear Abby or “Any Servicemember” mailing programs.

“These programs were cancelled in October 2001, not only because of the saturation of the mail pipeline that they cause, but more importantly because of the risk or concern for bio-terrorism articles in the mail,” Larson said.

According to Larson, MPSA encourages military members to support the publicly available Web sites that allow the American public to write supportive letters to service members.

For more information, call the Laughlin post office at 298-5417.

Interested in the Air Force?
Call Del Rio’s Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.

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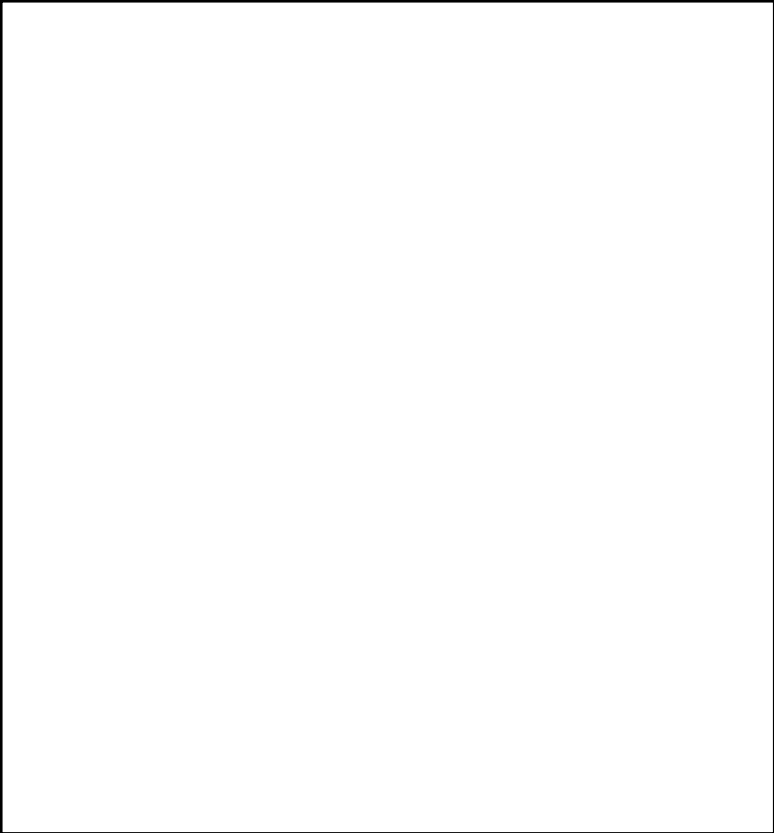


Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Practice makes perfect...

New honor guard members, Airman 1st Class Cheneldra Moore, 87th Flying Training Squadron aviation resource management apprentice, and Airman 1st Class Stephanie Henry, 47th Mission Support Squadron wing evaluation monitor, practice outside the wing building Nov. 19, for a retreat ceremony. To join the honor guard, call Staff Sgt. Steven Taylor at 298-5159.

Random drug testing held Sunday

By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde
Staff writer

Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Training Wing commander, directed random drug testing for all military members entering the main gate between 4 and 5 p.m. Sunday.

“The random testing is part of a comprehensive drug-testing program to deter the use of ecstasy among Laughlin military members,” said Colonel Woodward. “This deterrence is important to everybody who wants the Air Force to be drug-free.”

Security forces personnel helped the drug demand reduction program manager and the life skills flight NCO in charge by stopping the randomly selected vehicles as they entered the base.

During the hour, about 25 vehicles were pulled over near Building 7 for drug testing, said Airman 1st Class Marquin King, 47th Security Forces Squadron installation entry controller on duty during the random testing. “We were there to help with whatever was needed.”

All active-duty members in every other car were chosen for testing, said Staff Sgt. Ralph Smith, 47th Medical Operations Squadron life skills flight NCOIC. A different method of randomly selecting vehicles is chosen each time testing is done.

“The last time weekend testing was conducted at Laughlin, every seventh car was chosen,” he said. “Selecting members this way helps ensure that a particular

car is not singled out and keeps the process random.”

The Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory at Brooks Air Force Base has the ability to test for prescription drugs such as codeine and other easily abused medications. All specimens are tested for the most commonly used illegal drugs.

According to Sergeant Smith, weekend drug testing is not advertised. Knowing that drug testing can happen at any time, day or night, is meant to help deter the use of all illicit drugs in the Air Force. “Drug testing will continue to happen as long as we have members using drugs,” he said. “Using drugs in the Air Force is a gamble and will ruin you’re career if caught.”

Please recycle this newspaper.

The *XLer*

Hometown: Las Vegas
Family: Husband, Wade; stepsons, Joseph and Zachary; son, Joshua, due in January.
Time at Laughlin: Ten months
Time in service: Nine years, four months
Greatest accomplishments: Finding my soul mate and the child that will soon bless us at the beginning of January.
Hobbies: Camping, hiking, canoeing, anything outdoors
Bad habits: Taking on too much and not knowing when to stop and breathe
Favorite film: *The Greatest Story Ever Told*
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Jesus. I have so many “whys” to ask him. The Lord is who gets me through each day and to spend an hour with him would be so spiritual and up-lifting.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Staff Sgt. Traci Wilmoth
47th Medical Operations Squadron medical technician

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

- Saturday* ● 5 p.m., Mass
Sunday ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
● 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall
Thursday ● 6 p.m., Choir
Reconciliation ● By appointment
Religious Education ● 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

- Sunday* ● 12 to 1 p.m., prayer hour
p 6:30 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238
Friday ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship (activities for children)
Monthly ● Women’s fellowship (call 298-1351 for details)

Protestant

- Saturday* ● 9 a.m., Singles Bible study at the Chaparral Dining facility
Sunday ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
● 11 a.m., General worship (blend of contemporary and traditional worship)
Wednesday ● 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study
● 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

Couple shares unique hobby, career plans

By 2nd Lt.
Gerardo Gonzalez
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany – It is not often that the worlds of rodeo and basic military training cross paths. What is even more unusual is seeing a husband and wife who have the skills to take on both of these challenging activities. One such Air Force couple stationed here will soon take their unique skills and interests to Texas, home of Air Force basic training and infinite rodeo opportunities.

Staff Sgts. Travis and Brandy Beck, from the 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron here, are headed to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where upon completion of MTI school the duo will be busy “riding” basic trainees, and when time allows, bulls and horses.

“The Becks are truly an outstanding couple,” said Maj. Peter Hofelich, 52nd EMS commander. “Both do a superb job and have the professional skills to excel at any tasking.”

Over his lifetime in rodeo, Travis has taken a few beatings, including a ligament-ripping shoulder dislocation. Even so, injuries have not been enough to keep Travis away from the sport he loves.

“I’ve done it forever,” said Travis who began riding at age 5.

Travis’ talent has garnered him numerous titles including the Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association 2002 Saddle Bronc Riding champion, Calf Roping champion and All-Around champion.

Small in physical size but big in courage, Brandy has also racked up some awards in her short time participating in rodeos. She was the Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association 2002 Break Away Calf Roping champion and cowgirl Rookie of the Year.

Brandy’s interest in rodeos peaked when she traveled with Travis on the European rodeo circuit. It was a chance to do something she already enjoyed, riding horses.

“It gave me something to do,” said Brandy, an aerospace ground equipment mechanic with the 52nd EMS.

The search for “something to do” led the Becks to apply for a four-year controlled tour of duty at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, as MTIs.

MTIs are the Air Force’s drill sergeants. At Lackland, they are responsible for transforming newly enlisted civilians into airmen and preparing them for service. Those selected for MTI duty undergo a stringent application process where only the best applicants who have established solid military records are selected.

Travis and Brandy have established those solid records, said Hofelich.

“Both are disciplined, yet demonstrate the necessary people skills to inspire the young troops,” he said.

The MTI selection process was “interesting,” said Travis as he described the mental evaluation part of the selection process where they undergo a series of questionnaires that include a wide variety of personal questions.

“You have to go through physical conditioning exercises (as well as) the mental aspect of it,” said Travis. “They want to make sure you are the example (they) want to look up to.”

For Travis, MTI duty will give him the opportunity to contribute to the Air Force on a “bigger scale.”

“I want a chance to try and help the Air Force ... everyone has got to do their part to help the Air Force,” said Travis, who currently works as a unit deployment manager.

Brandy takes a lighter view of



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Travis Beck rides a bull in a rodeo in Kaiserslautern, Germany, in August. Beck is the Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association 2002 Saddle Bronc Riding champion, Calf Roping champion and All-Around champion. He and his wife, Staff Sgt. Brandy Beck, are on their way to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where they will be military training instructors.

the special assignment they started considering at their previous duty station in Japan.

“It’s something different,” said Brandy, who met Travis while they were both going through technical school following basic training. “It will add a little more spice to life.”

“We always have to be doing something different,” added Travis, who married Brandy in Japan. Their pending assignment as MTIs has brought them visibility within their

unit, including some lighthearted teasing from their co-workers.

“Some people tell me, ‘you’ll be good at it’ or ‘I can’t see you yelling at people,’” said Travis.

“I get it a lot working in a 60-person shop,” said Brandy. “I’ve been told ‘why don’t you go out and practice and go yell at those guys.’”

The Beck’s take the teasing in stride and look forward to MTI duty and making a career out of the Air Force.

Please recycle this newspaper.

“What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?”



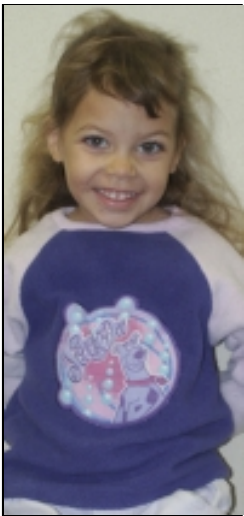
Garrett Hackmaster, 2
Family member

“Georgie, my cat.”



Jessica Caro, 3
Family member

“My mommy, she’ll be back soon.”



Ashley Nicolas, 3
Family member

“Just to have a turkey.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Deb Alvarado

Pit stop

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM – Staff Sgt. Mark Day changes the tire on a 20-ton dump truck at a forward-deployed location. Day is an equipment operator for the 819/219th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron and is deployed from Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.

Do the world a favor and
recycle this newspaper.

Medical offical issues notice on ephedra risks

By G.W. Pomeroy
Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. – The Air Force’s surgeon general has issued a notice to airmen on the potential risks associated with dietary supplements that contain ephedra, following the death of a young Air Force member in early November.

Medical notices are released by clinical quality management division officials from the Air Force Medical Operations Agency to disseminate lessons learned from medical incident investigations and other pertinent events.

‘What we know is that this young man took dietary supplements, including ephedra,’ said Royal Air Force Wing Commander (Dr.) Victor Wallace, of the aerospace medicine division at the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.

“Although there was insufficient evidence to be causal, the changes seen in this young man’s cardiovascular system can be associated with ephedra use.

“The purpose of the (notice) is to ensure that Air Force personnel and their attending medical staff remain alert to the risks and can provide appropriate advice and education,” said Wallace, an RAF exchange officer.

The Air Force surgeon general issued a revised policy covering dietary supplements containing ephedra on Sept. 5 that strongly discouraged the use of such supplements and highlighted associated risk factors.

The revised SG policy was followed by a memorandum from the Air Force Services Agency, which called for services activities to remove such supplements from their resale inventories.

“Since ephedra and its alkaloids

have several different names, products should be evaluated by (major command-) and base-level dietitians to ensure all items known to include this herb/ingredient are identified and removed from your operations,” the services memo read.

In late August, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service also removed the products from its inventories.

According to a statement issued by AAFES headquarters officials in Dallas: “Due to health and safety concerns, AAFES has replaced all ‘performance enhancing’ dietary supplements that contain ephedra with ephedra-free products. All products with ephedra have been removed from AAFES’ stores, along with those operated by AAFES concessionaires. Signs have been posted to encourage customers to carefully read the labels of all dietary supplements to help them make informed

choices.”

Air Force Surgeon General officials have repeatedly “strongly advised” people to contact their physicians or health-care providers before taking dietary supplements containing ma huang, ephedra or ephedra alkaloids.

“Consultation is especially necessary if an individual has pre-existing medical problems, is taking other medications or exercises vigorously as part of (his or her) occupation or fitness program,” Wallace said.

Such supplements, which include so-called energy boosters, over-the-counter diet pills and bodybuilding drinks or mixes, may pose health and occupational risks even for those not taking other prescribed drugs, Wallace said.

Today, at least 20 states and the National Football League are among those who have banned or restricted use of ephedrine products.

Any concerns about work, Laughlin or the Air Force should be addressed through the chain of command. If problems persist, contact the Inspector General, Lt. Col. Peter Godwin at 298-5638.

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